

and the Saving's Bank, was very soon in ruins. The Commercial Bank, not far distant, succumbed a few minutes later, and the telegraph offices had been consumed long before, the operators having to fly from their keys. Communication was thus cut off with the outside world. Consternation now seized the populace; they saw, with terror, that the stone buildings were no more able to resist the attacks of the fire than the flimsiest wooden structures.

As the night advanced, the fire swept up and down Water street. A vigorous stand was made in one direction, which was effectual in stopping its progress west. The fire, which had taken possession also of the buildings in the northern part of the city, communicated to St. Patrick's Hall, and notwithstanding the great efforts made by the Christian Brothers and others, that fine building was soon in flames. It was then feared that the fire would spread to the convent and buildings on Military road, the headquarters of the Roman Catholic denomination, but after a brave fight the danger was averted. A short distance lower down a collection of buildings also jeopardised the neighboring suburb, where numbers of those who had been previously burnt out had taken refuge, but with the assistance of many volunteers, the firemen and police succeeded, after severe exertion, in successfully combating the enemy. Another severe struggle took place at the head of King's street, where the security of a portion of Military Road depended on saving the Drill Shed, and already over-taxed energies were expended in fighting the flames. Citizens vied with each other in carrying pails of water to quench the flames. The fire had now reached Cochrane street, and it was hoped that the upper portion of this fine street might be saved. Attempts were made to pull down some of the buildings, but the effort proved futile until the fire had reached Hon. G. T. Rendell's residence, the only house left standing on the east side of Cochrane street. In the meantime the Water Side premises, stores, warehouses, wharves, etc., from Bowring's to Brooking's old premises, were a mass of ruins, including the stores of Hon. A. McKay, the tannery, Woods & Son's premises, Harvey's tobacco factory and bakery, the Coastal Steam Company's wharf and stores, and a portion of Hoyles' Town, with the Bavarian Brewery, W. Canning's and the Ameri-

can Consul's residences. Several vessels lying at the wharves had narrow escapes. The *Netley*, *Ethel*, and others hauled out into the stream, although their sails and rigging caught fire several times. The steamer Sharpshooter, Brig *Doore*, the coal hulk *Huntress*, and a number of smaller craft were burned. By 5.30 a.m. on the 9th of July, the fire had completed its work of destruction. Fully three-fourths of the city lay in ruins, and \$20,000,000 worth of property had been destroyed, covered by an insurance only of \$4,800,000. Nearly 11,000 people were homeless and some 2,000 houses and stores destroyed.

When morning broke, the thick clouds of smoke still ascended from the burning ruins, and hours elapsed before it had cleared sufficiently to admit of a view of the tract of the desolating scourge. The misery of that awful night will long be borne in the memories of the witnesses, and the scenes of utter desolation and hopeless ruin, which became evident at every step, were sufficient to unman the strongest nerves and stoutest hearts. Of the immense shops and stores, which displayed such varied merchandise and valuable stocks gathered from all parts of the known world; of the happy homes of artisans and middle classes, where contentment and prosperity went hand in hand; of the comfortable houses where the laborer sought rest and refreshment; and of the costly and imposing structures and public buildings which were the pride and glory of its people, scarcely a vestige remained; and St. John's lay in the morning sun as a city despoiled of her beauty and choicest ornaments, presenting a picture of utter desolation and woe. On that fatal morning the populace gazed on the ruins and destruction of their homes; and then with the renewed vigor and buoyancy characteristic of Newfoundlanders everywhere, at once turned attention to the difficult work of reconstruction and rebuilding their ruined city. Kind hearts from Canada and other parts of the world at once generously came forward to tender relief, and to Canada belongs the glory of first coming to the rescue, and nobly did she do so. The first intelligence of the disaster reached Halifax late on Friday evening, July 8th, and His Worship the Mayor, who was informed of the calamity about midnight, immediately had notices inserted in the city newspapers on the following morning, calling a meeting of citizens at his